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WASHINGTON, D. C.

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FOR THE NATIONAL ERA.

ROSA AND HER SUITORS.

A TALE OF SWEDISH DOMESTIC LIFE.

BY EMILIE F. CARLSEN,

Author of "One Year of Wedlock," "The Bride of Oberon," &c., &c.

TRANSLATED BY ELBERT PERCE.

CHAP. VII.

Hilda Borgengold.

On the evening of the day on which occurred the incidents we have just related, Mrs. Borgengold, an elderly and venerable woman, was seated upon her little sofa, busily in need of a well-worn shawl, which had been her true friend and companion since her youthful days. Her daughter, Hilda, was seated near a table at the window, writing as industriously as a Secretary of State. The apartment was simple, but clean and orderly, though the whole picture betrayed very, very narrow means.

The two ladies continued their work some time in silence. At length, Hilda arose; then the deepening twilight made it impossible for her to continue her writing. She walked up and down the room several times, whilst her mother cast at her every now and then a stolen glance, and secretly wiped away a falling tear with one end of her old shawl.

Hilda Borgengold was a remarkably handsome girl, and, in addition to this, she had a good heart, a clear head, and a cultivated mind, but also a certain (and not incon siderable) degree of pride in these advantages, and were of more worth in her estimation than those of fortune, which she had rather a contempt for when unaccompanied by the former. Beauty, however, she excepted, for she had too much nobleness of character to make that a main point of consideration. For some years she had accustomed herself both to love and respect her cousin Ferdinand; and, though he had never formally sought her hand, she had always, though she scarcely knew why, regarded him as the person who was to promote her future happiness—for a thousand times over, he had assured her that her hostility between the brothers first arose.

Hilda believed him, and gave him credit in heart for the delicacy with which he avoided constantly seeking from her a promise of constancy, before he could make her an offer to share his fate. The report which spoke of his addresses to Rosa Widen was entirely false, as without foundation, and not worth a thought. Ah! she would have known him better. However, no master how strongly rooted may be our hopes, they are not secure against the storms of fate. So, soon, came the news that Ferdinand had accepted and unmarried, stammered out something about the necessity of giving up the hope of possessing her, as it was impossible for him to see this long-cherished hope realized, because urgent circumstances which he could not name had occurred prevent him.

Hilda heard him through with admirable wounded feelings of her heart, enabled her to appear composed, cold, and determined; and, though greatly but politely while she did so, she did not seem to be at all affected by his words. Her power of self-control was exhausted, and, briefly bidding him farewell, she coldly and proudly left the room, and hurried to her own apartment. Here her feelings still subsided and quieted, but the whole world outside was still full of bitterness was the hour which so cruelly destroyed all the delightful dreams of a young and joyous heart. As soon, however, as she began to regard the master in a calmer light, she experienced a feeling of compunction, and, as she did, her heart was again filled with remorse and pain. Ferdinand, whose selfishness had led him to seek a woman for his wife whom he did not love. Now he appeared to her a man of no exalted principles—one of those men who can love to a certain extent, and feel happy if their love meets with a hearty response; but who, when it does not, are easily led to another, and will, in such cases, even, though circumstances demand the entire renunciation of love, fidelity, and doom himself fortunate that no formal declaration had been made, so that he could withdraw with outward honor.

That was the turn Ferdinand's thoughts had taken, and he had given up his plan. For a long term of years, he had been as devoted to her as he possibly could be; but, at the least obstinacy, he was ready to sacrifice his affection for her; and, in Hilda's opinion, he became a poor, weak, contemptuous, and, as such, could not be an object of desire for any woman. After what had occurred, she would not have received his offer at any price, even had he received the Professor's whole estate as a dowry, and his blessing besides; but it grieved and wounded her, to think she should have been the object of such a frivolous inclination.

In the mean time, Ferdinand could not reconcile himself to the idea of being scorned by the only woman he ever really loved, and deeply regretting the errors which had led to all this, he resolved to make a full confession to Hilda, and, if she would accept him, to give up his practice and employment to work in the little bit of ground we possessed in the vicinity of the town. Here he spent his time and his money. One day, taking our dinner with us, we went there to enjoy the solitude, and to determine upon the best way to manage our affairs. We had a small garden, which was situated out before our house, and there we planted flowers, and a few vegetables.

"At your birth, my Hilda, your father, for the first time since his marriage, visited the Professor, with deep emotion, urged and implored him to tell him the difference which had continued a whole year between them which caused him to come to his home and bring his child. But the Professor was inexorable; he refused to stand godfather to our child, or to have anything to do with us. Deeply hurt and humiliated, the Herman returned, and grieved sincerely, for he had been compelled to give up his practice and employment to work in the little bit of ground we possessed in the vicinity of the town. Here he spent his time and his money. One day, taking our dinner with us, we went there to enjoy the solitude, and to determine upon the best way to manage our affairs. We had a small garden, which was situated out before our house, and there we planted flowers, and a few vegetables.

This was what she wished, and she was one of those characters, so rarely found in women, who do not in their love find a thousand excuses to justify the weakness of their lovers. She had forever renounced all compassion with Ferdinand, and kept her wretched time no longer than necessary to obtain his company with him, and now, with a heavy heart, she slowly crept upon the grass in the twilight, with her hands crossed upon her bosom, we could tell—she for the sake of walking quickly up to the sofa, where her mother sat, and her mother's neck, and said, in a joyous tone,

"That will do; we shall decide whether to go travelling expenses, and something over. I can see beforehand how happy papa will be, and I will gladly go by day to manage the household masters, and write morning and evening."

"And destroy yourself!" interrupted Mrs. Borgengold, "in order to support your parents, and help them out of their troubles? I am sure you are not able to go joyfully?"

"Do not talk so, my dear mother, entreated Hilda. "What enjoyment have I to regret? Do I not already have more than our income just now? And you may believe me, mamma, it is far from me to sacrifice to me to buy myself all our travel expenses; indeed, it gives me much delight to be able to do it, for my heart longs for some other place of abode—for the country, I mean."

"But you will, I assure you, be obliged to live in town another summer; and I can never be sufficiently grateful for the unexpected sum of profit which my knowledge of French has opened to me. I think, by means of the translation of these two works, we shall be able not merely to cover our expenses, but to lay by a small sum besides, in order to purchase a few necessary articles."

"And you can accomplish all this before the end of

the year?"

"I am sure I can, and I will do so."

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can this oath at all apply to the Vice President, under any circumstances whatever, so as to fit or qualify him to "act as" President, not to be President? The language of this oath itself, together with our remarks above made, make it clear that he gains nothing by its administration to him. —*John J. Crittenden.*

We have shown, we hope satisfactorily, that the vacancy cannot be filled; that the Constitution substitutes the Vice President, *as such*, to *act as* President; hence, when he is made to swear, that he will execute the office of President, he does not do so, but that the office can be exercised alone by a President, *as such*. The powers and duties of the officer, not the office, belong to him, or the language of the Constitution is without significance: "The Vice President, when he shall exercise the office of President, he shall act." —*3 Stat. 5.* What officers shall then *act as* Presidents? "All officers shall act accordingly"! —*(Art. 2, sec. 6.)* Then the Vice President shall *act as President*! —*(Art. 12, sec. 1, amend.)*

Another aspect of the case: It was contemplated that, among possible events in connection with the administration of the Government, both of officers of President and Vice President might become disabled at the same time. In such case, it is provided that Congress may by law declare "what officer shall then act as President, and such officer shall act accordingly, until a President shall be elected." Now, in this case, designed by the author of Congress, is there no room for *the President?* We answer, just as much so, for the Vice President is, or can be; and the oath taken on induction to their respective chairs, by the Vice President, or the officer that he is *to act* President, is the same as that taken by the unexpired term of the Presidency, relative to its obligations to all acts to be done by them in the ordinary transactions of their proper office, as well as those possible extraordinary ones superinduced and specially imposed upon them by constitutional allotment. If the power and duty of the Vice President, in this case, to sustain other officers, were, necessarily, to be sum up, no less inherent for that reason, than the oath of their proper ordinary office, already taken by them, is sufficient, and binds them, *quecumque et quocunque*. What wisdom, then, is seen in the proposed *inauguration* and *use* of *inauguration*?

Again: Usual, or the universal custom, in all parliamentary and ecclesiastical affairs and transactions, seems to warrant the view we have taken of this matter. In one city, in the absence of the Mayor, or by reason of his inability to act, another, who does not know, and that another officer, provided for such a contingency, and acting in his stead, would assume himself, when called upon, in the discharge of the Mayor's duties, to use his name with the proper and truthful title, "Acting Mayor." In the diocese of New York there is also a custom, in the parishes, of electing a rectoring salary, the functions of whose bishopric he does not exercise, but another—an instance quite analogous to the political one under consideration—and that other, recognizing his proper relations, uses the style of "Provisional Bishop," and it is written that his bishopric is *not* to be used, will not take up his discharge its duties, nor adopt a fashion of official signature, false in philosophy, false in principle, and false in fact, as it would be, if the term *Bishop* were last used by him without limitation, while he is a person *qui vivit per illam*—more while he is.

The instances cited above of Vice Presidents, whom constitutional interdict placed in the Presidential chair to *act as President*, not to *be President*, show, in some degree, the progress of assumption, arrogance, usurpation, in the offices of the Federal Government. For the exercise of power, they reach and exceed, and, not content with *power*, like well-trained and little athletes in political gymnastics, show themselves masters in leaping and overleaping all the limits and boundaries of the Constitution.

The instances in the Executive department, and are only nominally dangerous to the rights and liberties of the people. It may be said to be of no importance, except to the individual whose vanity, or something else, has made him so great a dupe. Let him enjoy his fancied greatness; let him think himself *Duke of Wellington*, and write himself in the sleeve, and see set down as an illustration of the whole fable of the jackal in the plumeage of the peacock, or in the crown, with mock magnificence, on the pedestal of the pedestal of the National Government, as it has been significantly said, and well put, "What's in a name?" The insidious works and attacks of tyrants and usurpers are always covert, and, in appearance, trifling things, indifferent; the serpent coiled and in his smallest compact, with the assumed color of the surroundings, and seeming to be the more secure, to be feasted by the unscrupulous *crocodile*:

"He would be crooked; but he might change his nature, there's the question. Is he the honest man, or is he not? And that craves walking. Crown him? That; And then, I grant, we put it in him."

We might instance, *ad infinitum*, the strides taken in the unlawful exercise of power in the Judiciary department, but we pass them now. The cases of the Supreme Court, and the Legislative department, are absolutely frightful. We will cite only two instances, beautiful specimens of this sort, chosen because of their brightness and lateness from the mind. They are the Fugitive Slave Act, (one of the worthy Vice Presidents referred to above had a hand in it,) and the *Personal Liberty* bill; surely the worst in his power to be laughed at in the sleeve, and set down as an illustration of the entire fable of the jackal in the plumeage of the peacock, or in the crown, with mock magnificence, on the pedestal of the pedestal of the National Government, as it has been significantly said, and well put, "What's in a name?"

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We might instance, *ad infinitum*, the strides taken in the unlawful exercise of power in the Judiciary department, but we pass them now. The cases of the Supreme Court, and the Legislative department, are absolutely frightful. We will cite only two instances, beautiful specimens of this sort, chosen because of their brightness and lateness from the mind. They are the Fugitive Slave Act, (one of the worthy Vice Presidents referred to above had a hand in it,) and the *Personal Liberty* bill; surely the worst in his power to be laughed at in the sleeve, and set down as an illustration of the entire fable of the jackal in the plumeage of the peacock, or in the crown, with mock magnificence, on the pedestal of the pedestal of the National Government, as it has been significantly said, and well put, "What's in a name?"

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

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For the National Era.

THE LEGAL TENURE OF SLAVERY.

LETTER XXXVIII.

THE PRO-SLAVERY CONSTRUCTION DEMOLISHED—BY HISTORICAL EXPOSITION—Concluded.

To the Friends of American Liberty:

It is thus historically certain that the States of Virginia and Pennsylvania ratified the Constitution with the "understanding" that it clothed Congress with power to abolish Slavery in the States.

The friends of Liberty have no occasion, I trust, to make any defense to those, to qualify or modify their constitutional construction, founded on an examination of the instrument itself, by any historical reservations or misgivings. They need induce no apprehensions that "something of the nature of a compromise" must or may have entered into the minds of the fathers, in framing or in adopting this instrument. There is not a slight foundation for the apprehension.

On the other hand, it is well established as any negative proposition can be, that nothing of the kind could have taken place. The facts show that the improbability, if not the impossibility, of such a construction, was well known.

The ascertained and attested historical facts cannot be shown with the opposition of it.

Turn over all the political literature of that period that has come down to us. Its testimony is uniform on one side. It is the "Federalists" who are the true Javins of the Convention, and writers for the express purpose of persuading the people to adopt the Constitution. These pages reveal the fact that there were a number of delicate and difficult subjects to be adjusted in the Convention, among them all, not the slightest notice is taken of slavery.

There was the question between the large and the small States, whether the small States were to be allowed as many Senators as the large States. There was the question respecting the relative representation of the free and slave States in the Government. There was the question concerning the powers of the judiciary, the interests of navigation, and especially whether the structure and form of the proposed Government were sufficiently republican. On these and hundred other subjects, the Convention had labored, and sought to have an economical grave-digging. On these points, too, the gigantic authors of the *Federalist* labored, with the most minute care, to meet every demand of the Constitution, and to write the express purpose of persuading the people to adopt the Constitution. These pages reveal the fact that there were a number of delicate and difficult subjects to be adjusted in the Convention, among them all, not the slightest notice is taken of slavery.

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resolving me truly on this question. I will send you a copy if I can get one.

Your friend, WILSON SHANON.

The reader sees the tricks resorted to to carry the election for the Administration. Neither of these papers was printed till it was too late to contradict it.—Ed. Bra.

LETTER FROM ABIAH MANN, JUN., Candidate of the Republican Convention for Attorney General.

NEW YORK, October 9, 1855.

SIR: I possess your letter of the 3d instant; informing me officially of my unanimous nomination as a candidate for election to the office of Attorney General, and that the friends of the Missouri Compromise—the existence and perpetuity of our national character of the Fugitive Slave Law—the surrender of the independence and the venality of the Federal Courts—the destruction of the right of personal freedom—the corruption of legislation by the Slaveholders—a party—of elections, and a conference to prevent the freedom of the slaves, and nominations to office tending to corrupt and undermine the elective franchise, which lies at the base of our institutions, and upon the free exercise of which the perpetuity of the Constitution depends, and other depend.

At the time of an election of the King of France is recollected, my memory will be more fully appreciated. We have often been led to wonder why these fatal and aggressive wrongs of Mr. Polk's Administration were not resisted and arrested in Mr. Fillmore's time, and more powerful ambition of Mr. Webster controlled it. He was the master-spirit of Mr. Fillmore's organization, as much as Mr. May's was of Mr. Polk's. He had surveyed the ground upon which Mr. Polk stood in relation to the Slave Power, and the necessities of his administration, and the importance of his cause so, I have been told, that he was in the timid submission of the Democracy of the North to Mr. Polk's policy and patronage.

After concluding his remarks, the Rev. A. Donan, from a committee appointed on the subject, reported the following preamble and resolution, which were adopted.

Resolved, That we shall have no recourse to secret means or to oath-bound secret associations, in order to advance the civil, political, moral, or religious interests of our country or our fellow men.

Resolved, That we shall have no recourse to the means of making or to establish secret associations which have tended to the ruin of other places, habits of industry and frugality will prevail.

We sincerely trust that we shall have no recourse to any means for propagating our principles.

Resolved, That we will use all lawful means and instrumentalities in our power to oppose and defeat it.

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